

## REMARKS

Claims 3-6 have been allowed, but claims 1, 2, and 7-9 stand finally rejected over Nishimoto et al.; page 3 of the Applicants' disclosure; Hermanson et al. and Nakagaki. In the final Office Action mailed August 21, 2003, when addressing the Applicants' arguments that were contained in the Amendment After First Action filed on June 2, 2003, the Examiner said the following:

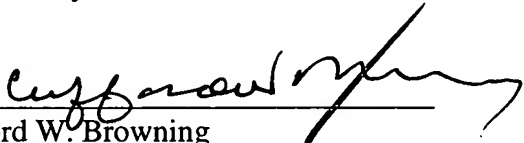
Applicant's argument that the Examiner failed to consider that Applicant claim a recirculation loop, which is separate from the feeding line and taking ink from the reservoir for returning it in the same reservoir again, while continuously mixing the ink through a recirculation is not persuasive because in the claim the Applicant only recites a recirculation loop, nothing about this recirculation loop, which is separate from the feeding line and taking ink from the reservoir for returning it in the same reservoir again, while continuously mixing the ink through a recirculation. Therefore, the combination still meets the limitation of the claim.

By the foregoing proposed amendment under Rule 116 to claim 1, the Examiner will please note that the Applicants have added to claim 1 the very limitations that were addressed in their prior arguments and which the Examiner suggested, by implication, would differentiate the Applicants' claim 1 over the combination of prior art references presently used as a basis for rejecting claims 1, 2, and 7-9. Specifically, Applicants' claim 1 now specifically recites "said recirculation loop being separate from the feeding line and taking ink from the reservoir and returning it in the same reservoir again, while continuously mixing the ink through a recirculation ...." Applicants therefore trust that the Examiner will now consider these Rule 116 amendments to claim 1 to patentably distinguish claim 1 over the combination of references now being used to reject claims 1, 2, and 7-9.

Because the limitations to distinguish over the prior art were specifically suggested by the Examiner's Response to Arguments set forth in numbered paragraph 3 of the final Office Action mailed August 21, 2003, Applicants believe that no new searching or significant reconsideration will be required and that the Applicants' amended claim 1 will be entered by the Examiner under Rule 116, thereby placing all the claims of the application in condition for allowance.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to enter the foregoing amendments to claim 1 under Rule 116, to consider the foregoing remarks, and then to allow all of the claims of the application, now pending, over all the prior art references of record.

Respectfully submitted,

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